III. *An Extract of a Relation Printed at Paris, containing a remarkable Hiſtory of a* Fætus *without the Womb, made by Dr.* Fern.

IN the *Journal des Savans*, of *Monday* the 26th of *November*, there was an Account publiſhed of this Fact from a Letter of M. *Saviard*, which was Printed in the *Tranſactions*: But our Author finding that deficient in many Particulars, and not agreeable to Truth in divers others, thought himſelf able to oblige all Lovers of Natural Hiſtory, by a more exact Relation of ſo remarkable an Accident.

A certain Goldſmiths Wife, whoſe Husband had been reduced to Poverty by misfortunes in Trade, being near Nine Months gone with her Fifth Child, was conſtrained to ſeek Relief in the *Hotel Dieu*, where ſhe was received the 20th of *September*.

This Unfortunate Woman was then about Thirty four Years of Age, of a tender Conſtitution, had had Four Children before, all which had done very well; but with the preſent ſhe had been very ill, and endured a great deal of Miſery. The Midwife who examined her Body, found a conſiderable Riſing on the Right-ſide near the Navel, which very much reſembled a Childs Head, her Belly below that place bearing no Proportion to that above, or to the time of her Pregnancy. On the Left ſide there was nothing ſingular. The Midwife thought ſhe felt through the *Vagina*, a thick Membrane filled and diſtended with Water, and in it the Heel of a Child, bent towards the Thigh; but ſhe could not be aſſured whether this was within the Womb or

not, by reaſon the inner Orifice was drawn ſo high, under the *Os Pubis*, ſhe could not, without ſome difficulty, touch it with the extremity of her Finger. Upon trying ſome time after, ſhe found the appearance of things very much changed, and at that time ſhe could not diſcern any thing like the *Fœtus* ſhe had before felt. The oddneſs of the Caſe, made her deſire of the Patient a particular Account of the Time and Circumſtances of her being with Child: To this the other replied, That for the firſt ſix Weeks ſhe had great and continual Pains, which ſhot towards the Navel, and terminated there, and theſe laſted till the third Month; that from thence to the Sixth ſhe had frequent Convulſions, Apoplectick Fits, terrible *Syncopes*, which had very much Frightned thoſe about her, and obliged them to give her the Sacraments, deſpairing of her Life; that from the Sixth to the Eighth Month, ſhe had enjoyed a much better Health, which in ſome meaſure had ſtrengthened both her and her Infant; that the Pains ſhe had endured ſince that time ſeemed to be ſo many alternate Throe's, (probably proceeding from the repeated ſtrokes of the Childs Head in that Place, where the Teguments were ſo thin, by reaſon of their great Extenſion, that the hardneſs of the *Cranium* could plainly be diſcerned through them.) In this Condition was this miſerable Woman when ſhe was received into that Hoſpital, till her Affliction encreaſing, ſhe could not lye on her ſide or back, being forced to ſit in a Chair, or Kneel in her Bed, with her Head reſting on her Breaſt. Theſe ſtrange and unaccountable Symptoms rendred the Midwife very doubtful how to proceed, and obliged her to apply her ſelf to M. *Hemmerer*, and M. *Jouey*, the firſt of which was at that time Phyſician to the Hall, and the other a Maſter Surgeon of the Houſe; theſe Gentlemen

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were as unable to reſolve what Method to take, as ſhe had been before. The Womans Term was now near expired, the *Cæſarean* Operation ſeemed on one hand Cruel and Dangerous; on the other hand it was probable, there was ſome *Hernia* or *Laceration* of the Womb, and no hopes of a Natural Delivery. In theſe difficult Circumſtances it was thought beſt to leave the Work to Nature, and prepare the Woman for her Labour, by opening a Vein in her Foot. The Evacuation was ordered to be ſmall [in which regard was had to the Weakneſs of the Patient, and the nicety of her Conſtitution] However, after this time the Child made no more efforts, and the Tumor ſubſided, there remaining only an Hydropick Indiſpoſition, which might be perceived by the Fluctuation; and a great quantity of Water came away for ſeveral days, from the Orifice of the Vein; inſomuch that ſhe who ſeemed to have her lower Belly and Thighs extremely diſtended, was very much extenuated before her Death.

After the Patients Deceaſe her Body was opened by M. *Jouey*; in the Preſence of M. *Colignon*, Maſter-Surgeon, Madam *Gouey* the Midwife, and divers other Perſons. Upon the firſt Inciſion through the Teguments, there came away two or three Pints [of *Paris* Meaſure] of Water and Blood, and there appeared the Head of a Child naked; and when the Parts were all laid open, there was found an intire Female *Fœtus* contained in a ſort of Cover or Bag, which at once ſerved it both for a Womb and Membranes. M. *Jouey* took the Child with the Umbilical ſtring out of the Mothers Bellie, tracing the ſtring to the *Placenta*, into which it was inſerted. This laſt appeared like a great round lump of Fleſh, and adhered ſo firmly to the *Meſentery* and *Colon* on the left ſide, that it could not be ſeparated from them without ſome trouble. On one ſide of this Lump was

a leſſer, about the ſize of a Kidney, which principally adhered to the Meſentery, and received ſeveral Branches of the String into it.

The larger Lump was round, and the greateſt part of it adhered to the Bag or Caſe which contained the Child.

As for the Caſe, it was Corrupted and Mortified in part, which probably might proceed from the frequent ſtrokes of the Infants head.

This Caſe or Bag ſprung from the edges of the Tube, or *Fimbria* of the Right Ovary, which was more entire than the Left, and proceeded obliquely to the Left ſide, terminating at the bottom of the *Pelvis*. In its deſcent it ſent out a ſmall Portion between the Womb and the *Rectum*. This Bag, by compreſſing the Neighbouring Parts, had gained a conſiderable ſpace in the above-mentioned Cavity; in ſuch manner, that a great part of the Child's Body was lodged at the bottom of it, in a bended Poſture, with the Head Projecting forwards which formed the Prominence near the Navel.

This Bag ſeemed to be nothing elſe than an Elongation and Diſtenſion of the Tube, and an Expanſion or Production of the broad Ligament on the Right ſide, which was evident from its continuity to thoſe Parts, and the Diſtribution of the Spermatick Veſſels, which were larger than uſual, and paſſed from the extremity of the Tube to the larger Lump.

In the next place viewing the Womb he found it entire, and in its natural State, except that it was ſomething larger than ordinary, being about the ſize of that of a Woman Ten or Twelve Days after her Delivery, and no marks that the Child had been lodged in it. M. *Jouey* having obſerved this, thought fit to deſiſt for the preſent, being deſirous to have ſome eminent Witneſſes of ſo extraordinary an Accident, or any Rarity

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he might happen to diſcover in his further Enquiries.

According to his Deſire, about Two a Clock in the Afternoon, M. *Hemmerer*, Doctor of Phyſick, M. *Du Verney*, Profeſſor of Anatomy and Chirurgery in the *Royal Garden*, M. *Mauriceau* a famous Man-Midwife, and M. *Merry*, Surgeon and Anatomiſt of the Academy of Sciences came to the *Hotel Dieu*, and the Womb being carefully Diſſected in the Preſence of theſe Gentlemen, together with the Senior Surgeons of that Houſe, and divers others, whoſe Curioſity had drawn them thither; it was unanimouſly agreed, that the *Fœtus* had never been in it, [it being as was noted above, in the ſame ſtate as in Women, who are not with Child, except the ſmall Dilatation of its Bulk, which might ariſe from a Compreſſion of the Veſſels, and interception of the Refluent Blood, by the unnatural Poſition of the *Fœtus*.

In thruſting a long and ſlender Probe through the Right Horn of the Womb, it eaſily paſt into the Tube of the ſame ſide, for Three Fingers breadth in length, but it could not be thruſt further by reaſon of the Conſtriction of the Tube in that part. The Capacity of the Tube could not be diſtinguiſhed, the *Parietes* of it, by their Coalition with the *Chorion* and *Amnios* of the Child, forming the Bag in which the Child was included, which extended from the Tube on the Right ſide to that on the Left, and was agglutinated to the *Viſcera* of the lower Belly, the *Rectum*, and to the back part of the Womb, as appeared by ſome Fragments remaining on thoſe Parts after the Separation.

Our Author Annexes ſome Reflections on this extraordinary Subject, which we ſhall not here Recite; however it muſt not be omitted what this Gentleman informs

informs us, That formerly in Diſſecting the Body of a Woman, who ſuppoſed her ſelf to be Three Months gone with Child; he found the Womb very ſmall, not larger than in Virgins, and a hard Subſtance in the Right Horn, which being opened, appeared to be the Sceleton of an Infant, with the Navel-ſtring, ſmeared round with a white Matter, not unlike Plaſter, which he ſhewed to M. *Du Verney*, and other curious Perſons.

IV. *An* Obſervation *of ſome* Parelii *ſeen at* Canterbury. *By Mr.* Stephen Gray.

FEbruary the 26th, 169⅝. being *Sunday*, about half an Hour after Three in the Afternoon, chancing to look out of a Window that faced South-Eaſt, I ſaw not far from the South to the Weſtward, an Appearance of ſomewhat not much unlike the Sun, when ſeen through Clouds, *viz.* with its *Periphery* not exactly defined, from which it likewiſe differed, in that one half of it was coloured deep Red and Yellow, the other White. I went immediately into the Garden, taking a *Theodolite* with me, in order to take its diſtance from the Sun, which the room would not permit; but was then preſented with an Appearance exactly like the former, but on the oppoſite ſide of the Sun; I took the diſtance of this from the Sun, which was 23 degrees to the Weſtward; but before I could take the diſtance of the Eaſtern one, it Vaniſhed, but ſoon after Re-appear'd, and then I perceived manifeſtly, that they were both ſituate in the extremities of a *Semi-*

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